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Resource revenue to remain key part of spending plan

Recommendations. Critics tell Saskatchewan Party finance minister where to spend and cut in budget for 2013-14

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

Cut personal income tax, take steps to kill a small-business tax and reduce dependence on billions of dollars in resource revenue.

Those are among critics' recommendations for the Saskatchewan government and its next budget, though what the spending plan will include won't be revealed until Wednesday.

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz has confirmed that the 2013-14 budget will again involve "significant" revenue from non-renewable resources, despite the Canada West Foundation warning that the cash flow from oil and potash is too volatile to rely on.

It would be "extremely difficult to cut $3 billion worth of spending," Krawetz added, following Canada West economist Michael Holden's saying the province's resource revenue will be more than $560 million below initial projections for the current fiscal year.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation, meanwhile, is calling for a reduction of Saskatchewan's general business tax and an elimination of its small-business tax by 2016.

Personal income tax, though, is where the CTF insists the province chop most.

"They should close the tax gap with Alberta," said CTF regional director Colin Craig.

NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon said that, rather than cut tax for large corporations, the government should invest "in the health of communities."

Budget-day footwear

Province is dancing around the issues: NDP critic

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz showed off the shoes he has purchased, in keeping with Canadian political tradition.

His new shoes are tight, he said, like the budget he'll announce while wearing them.

But NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon said the Saskatchewan Party's "song and dance" on spending requires that Krawetz wear a pair of tap-dancing shoes, which he would provide.

ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO IN REGINA

Trent Wotherspoon, NDP finance critic, holds tap-dancing shoes, which he suggested Finance Minister Ken Krawetz wear on Wednesday for the governing Saskatchewan Party's "song and dance" with the provincial budget.

ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO IN REGINA

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NEWS 1

Junos to take Sask. by storm

Fly Points is just one Saskatchewan band that will take the stage during a two-night Juno festival celebrating local and national acts. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Canadian music. Big names announced for week of events leading up to awards show

ALYSSA MCDONALD
alyssa.mcdonald@metronews.ca

Some heavy hitters are set to arrive in Saskatchewan next month for the Junos, and fans will have the chance to get up close and personal.

Leading up to the Juno Awards ceremony on April 21, events like the Junofest, the Juno Cup, Juno Fan Fare and the Songwriters' Circle will give fans a chance to be in a more intimate setting with their favourite Canadian acts.

"(It's) an opportunity to promote and celebrate Canadian music and it gives fans access to Canadian artists," said Chris Topping, vice-president of events and special programming for the Junos.

Big names announced on Tuesday for these events include Hannah Georgas and Serena Ryder playing the Juno Awards ceremony, Tom Cochrane hosting the Songwriters' Circle, and Jim Cuddy leading a team of rockers against ex-NHLers Mike Sillinger and Ed Staniowski and Roughrider Chris Getzlaf.

Junofest will bring local Saskatchewan talent together with national and international artists to play 16 venues in two cities over two nights. More than 100 acts will play throughout Regina and Moose Jaw, including 28 Juno nominees.

"We get to experience the enthusiasm that music fans bring to the events as well as local artists and the local community, and brought together with all these big Canadian rock stars makes for an amazing weekend," said Topping.

The Juno Awards also announced there will be a Gonna Get Loud tent in Regina's City Square plaza.

Other events leading up to the awards include an exhibition of music and sustainability at the Royal Sask. Museum, film and fashion programs at the Regina Public Library and a photography exhibition at MacKenzie Art Gallery.

The Juno Awards ceremony takes place on April 21 at the Brandt Centre in Regina.

Quoted

"We get to experience the enthusiasm that music fans bring to the events ... together with all these big Canadian rock stars makes for an amazing weekend."

Chris Topping, vice-president of events and special programming for the Junos

Feds on board for Canada's first on-reserve potash mine

The first on-reserve potash mine in Canada moved one step closer to development after the Muskowekwan First Nation potash-mine project received support from the federal government.

Bernard Valcourt, minister of aboriginal affairs and northern development, Muskowekwan First Nation Chief Reginald Bellerose and Jim Walchuck, president and CEO of Encanto Resources Ltd., announced on Tuesday that the mine project was accepted under the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act.

"I am pleased to announce that the Muskowekwan First Nation potash project is a step closer to becoming a reality," said Valcourt.

"(This) will create employment and economic growth as well as other long-term benefits for the First Nation and surrounding communities."

Chief Bellerose said the project will allow the community to be a "significant resource player in the province for generations."

The project, once underway, will be on the reserve — about 75 kilometres northeast of Regina — and is expected to generate approximately 1,000 construction jobs for its development and about 500 jobs once the mine is fully operational.

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Desert tragedy. U.S. slaps ban on 60mm mortar after blast kills 7 marines

The fatal explosion of a 60mm mortar has prompted the U.S. Pentagon to immediately halt its use worldwide.

Seven marines were killed in the blast. Half a dozen were injured.

It happened during a training exercise in the Nevada desert — at the Hawthorne Army Depot, a facility used by troops headed overseas.

"We send our prayers and condolences to the families of marines involved," said Maj. Gen. Raymond C. Fox.

"We mourn their loss, and it is with heavy hearts we remember their courage." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What went wrong?

The 60mm is a weapon that traditionally requires three to four marines to operate, but it's common during training for others to observe nearby. The worldwide halt will last until the weapon's safety can be determined.

Sex-attack claim

Fearful woman jumps 3 storeys

A British woman travelling in India jumped out of the third-floor window of her hotel room, telling police she feared a sexual attack.

The woman said the hotel's owner tried to force his way into the room by offering her a massage.

She was not badly hurt, but she suffered some injuries to her legs, police officer Sushant Gaur said.

Police arrested the hotel owner over the alleged incident in Agra, the site of the Taj Mahal. No charges have been filed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World's most powerful hear Pope's plea for the poorest

Francis's priorities. The weakest and the environment must be protected, the 'omens of destruction' must be vanquished

Gov. Gen. David Johnston and his wife Sharon meet Pope Francis after the installation Tuesday. L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He had them in the palm of his hand.

Princes, presidents and sheiks — not to mention thousands of ordinary folk — listened intently Tuesday as Pope Francis laid out the priorities of his pontificate.

The environment, the weakest and the poorest must be protected, said the first Pope from Latin America.

"Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment," the 266th Pope implored.

Do not allow "omens of destruction," hatred, envy and pride, to "defile our lives," said the new leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

The occasion was 76-year-old Francis's installation mass, held on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and attended by an estimated 200,000 people.

In Buenos Aires, they listened, too — thousands of people packed the central Plaza di Mayo square to watch the ceremony on giant TV screens, erupting in joy when the Pope from Argentina called them, his words broadcast over loudspeakers.

"Don't forget that this bishop who is far away loves you very much. Pray for me," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimbabwe vote to end turmoil?

Zimbabwe's electoral body said Tuesday that 94.5 per cent of voters cast a ballot in favour of a referendum on a new constitution.

The constitution calls for a strengthening of human rights and a curb on presidential powers after a decade of political and economic turmoil in the southern African nation.

A new constitution was a key demand of regional mediators who forged a shaky and acrimonious coalition between Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and the former opposition leader, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, after the last violent and disputed national polls were held in 2008.

All main political parties had called for a "yes" vote in the referendum.

Judge Rita Makarau, head of the state electoral commission, said Tuesday that just over three million Zimbabweans voted for the draft constitution and 170,489 voted against. The draft has now to be submitted to the Zimbabwe parliament for approval, a procedural formality, before Mugabe is asked to sign it into law.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe casts his vote Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The draft limits the future presidential office to two five-year terms.

Mugabe, 89, who led the nation to independence in 1980, can rule for another two terms if his party wins upcoming five-yearly parliamentary and presidential polls. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massacre foiled? Student had scary arsenal: Police

A University of Central Florida student who pulled a dorm fire alarm in the middle of the night had a more sinister plan than sending students scurrying out into the night.

Campus police said James Oliver Seevakumaran, 30 — who shot himself in the head as officers arrived — was armed with two guns, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, a backpack filled with explosives and a plan to attack other students as they fled.

His plans were thrown off by campus police officers' quick response to a fire alarm and a call to police from Seevakumaran's roommate, who hid in a bathroom after Seevakumaran pointed a gun at him, UCF police Chief Richard Beary said.

"I think we were very blessed here at the University of Central Florida," Beary said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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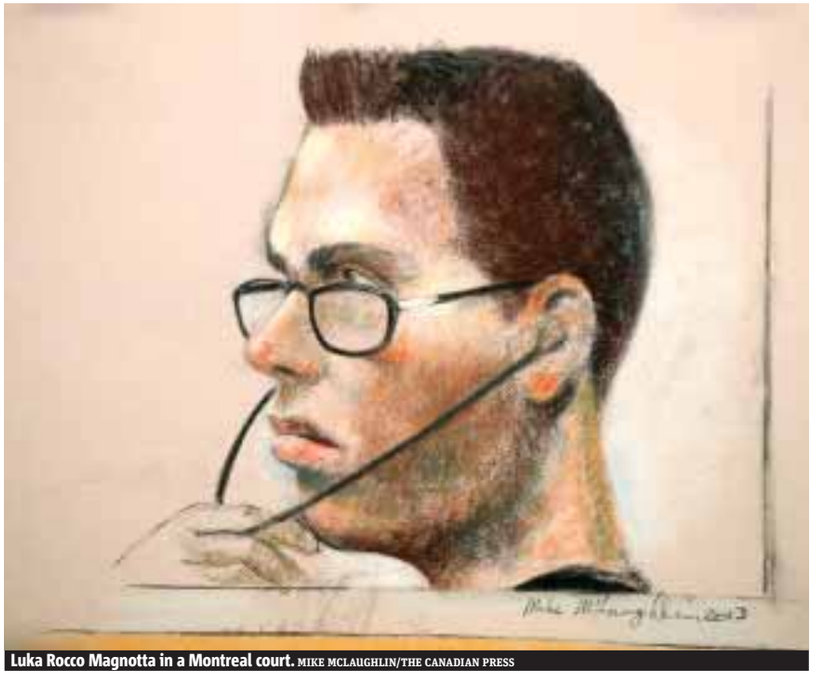
Luka Rocco Magnotta collapses in courtroom

Hearing postponed. Alleged killer fell after watching disturbing video evidence in case



Luka Rocco Magnotta in a Montreal court. MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta collapsed to the courtroom floor after seeing video evidence presented against him, forcing a postponement in his preliminary hearing Tuesday.

Magnotta appeared distraught as the video played in the courtroom. When it was over, the suspect in a notorious killing-and-dismemberment case asked for a break. He stood up and fell on his right side, crumpling into a fetal position at the feet of a prison guard.

The evidence in the gruesome case is temporarily subject to a publication ban. It could be made public if the case goes to trial.

Magnotta was not back in court when the afternoon session began at 2 p.m.

"He really doesn't feel well and he's not able to continue," his lawyer, Luc Leclair, said.

Judge Lori-Renee Weitzman said they could not continue without Magnotta present. She ordered the case suspended until Wednesday.

During the morning segment, Magnotta had held his hand over his mouth, as if he felt ill. His eyes were closed for much of the session. The 30-year-old appeared to wipe away tears several times.

Even the judge appeared to be affected by the evidence. She winced slightly at one point in the video. Some police investigators present in the courtroom stared away from the screen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges

Luka Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Jun Lin, a 33-year-old Concordia University student from China.

- **Absent.** Lin's parents were not present Tuesday morning. His father has attended the preliminary hearing at times but he has not stayed in the courtroom when the most graphic evidence relating to the case has been presented.

Budget to focus on needed skills, infrastructure, manufacturing

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in Ottawa. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is signalling he'll make skills training, modernizing the country's crumbling infrastructure and helping the manufacturing sector the key priorities in Thursday's budget.

In a letter to his caucus colleagues, the minister cautions that the economy remains fragile and faces strong competition from emerging nations.

Government ministers have long identified a miss-match between the jobs that are in demand and the skills being churned out by universities, colleges and training programs.

"There are too many jobs that go unfilled in Canada because employers can't find workers with the right skills," he writes in the letter. By some estimates, there are about 260,000 job vacancies in Canada.

Flaherty is also committing to "do more" on infrastructure. With stimulus construction projects now complete and the $8.8-billion Building Canada Fund about to expire, the minister is expected to announce an extension of the program.

And he is expected to renew the accelerated capital cost allowance, first introduced in 2007, that allows manufacturing firms a quicker writeoff for investments in machinery and equipment, thereby lowering their tax bill.

Statistics Canada reported Tuesday the factory sector suffered its second consecutive monthly decline in January — 0.4 per cent in terms of output volumes — and remains below levels of a year ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba. Mennonites sought parenting advice before assault charges laid

Leaders of an orthodox Mennonite community in Manitoba reached out for counselling and parenting advice before two members were charged with beating children with various weapons, including a whip and cattle prod.

Enos Bauman, 54, and his son Cleason Bauman, 29, face various counts of assault and assault with a weapon. The younger Bauman is also charged with assault causing bodily harm.

Court documents show the alleged offences involve seven children, boys and girls, dating back to July 2011.

The pair was arrested last week and released on bail under conditions that include avoiding the community.

Neither police nor the documents on file with the court have disclosed a motive.

Brad Reimer, a spokesman with the Mennonite Centre Committee of Manitoba, said Monday that leaders of the group came to Winnipeg last month and met with officials about "parenting concerns."

There was no followup, in part, because the community is so isolated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

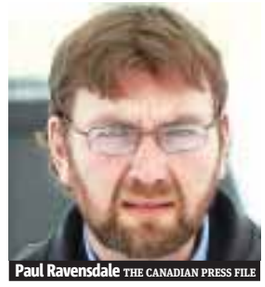
Lethal mine training. Ex-soldier avoids jail time

Three years after leading a weapons exercise gone wrong that killed a fellow soldier and injured four others, Paul Ravensdale learned Tuesday he will not have to go to jail.

The former warrant officer was given a six-month suspended sentence, fined $2,000 and demoted one rank to sergeant — the last a largely symbolic consequence, as Ravensdale is now retired.

The prosecution had asked for four years in prison.

Military judge Col. Mario Dutil said Ravensdale clearly violated safety rules but was given too many tasks by his superiors. Training rules require weapons testing and safety monitoring be given to two separate people.



Paul Ravensdale THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The judge also spared Ravensdale from incarceration because the retired soldier suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and is undergoing long-term treatment with a psychologist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steubenville, Ohio

Coach, others may see charges in rape

The head football coach at Steubenville High School and the owners of a house where an infamous 12-minute video was filmed could be investigated as Ohio prosecutors look into how adults responded to allegations of rape last year.

State Attorney General Mike DeWine said Sunday he would consider charges against anyone who failed to speak up after the rape of a 16-year-old girl in August.

Authorities also proved they won't put up with people harassing the victim, arresting two girls Monday suspected of threatening her online over the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelowna, B.C.

RCMP search for callous dog killer

Mounties in Kelowna, B.C., have picked up the case of a heartless SUV driver and a grieving pet owner.

Police are searching for the driver after an incident on Feb. 28, in which the man ran over a leashed dog being walked by its owner.

While it was apparent the dog's injuries were very serious, the man refused to transport the bleeding animal in his SUV. He also refused to give the owner any information but promised to bring a veterinarian.

The man drove away and did not return. The dog was eventually taken to a vet but later died of its injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyprus votes down bank-deposit levy

EU financial crisis. While protesters cheer move by Parliament, international bailout is now left in disarray

Lawmakers in Cyprus decisively rejected a plan on Tuesday to seize up to 10 per cent of people's bank deposits in order to secure an international bailout and prevent a collapse of the country's banks.

The vote leaves the tiny Mediterranean economy in limbo, but hundreds of protesters outside Parliament cheered and sang the national anthem when they heard the bill failed.

Still, Cyprus needs about $20.9 billion to bail out its heavily indebted banks and shore up government finances. If it doesn't get the money, the banks could fail, Cyprus' government finances could be ruined for years and the country could face expulsion from the 17-country euro currency union.

Protesters chant outside Parliament in Nicosia, Cyprus, on Tuesday prior to a vote on a controversial plan to tax bank deposits. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund have pledged to provide about $13.2 billion in rescue loans if Cyprus can come up with the remainder. With the country's banks closed since Saturday to avoid a run, Cypriot leaders will now try to hatch a more politically palatable plan that might also satisfy officials in the eurozone and IMF.

The plan that was rejected Tuesday — with 36 votes against, 19 abstentions and one absence — had been amended to shield the smallest depositors, those with under about $26,500 in the bank. But deposits up to about $132,400 are supposed to be insured by all euro countries. There has been widespread condemnation of the plan throughout Europe since it was announced over the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The Cypriot authorities wanted to conduct the vote so that they could reaffirm the extent of their difficulties to the Europeans."

Alex White of J.P. Morgan

Sheer oversight. Lululemon recalling black pants that reveal too much yoga butt

Shares in Lululemon Athletica Inc. closed down $1.76 to $65.74 on the Toronto Stock Exchange Tuesday, after the clothing maker recalled some of its black yoga pants because they were too see-through and warned the move would hurt sales.

The news came as the athletic clothing retailer prepared to report its quarterly results this week.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Howard Tubin noted it was the second product-related issue the company has had this year.

"Combine this with the problems they had with red and pink garments earlier this year and bears could start to weave a narrative that Lululemon is consistently encountering execution issues while growing," Tubin wrote in a note to investors, referring to problems with bleeding in some of Lululemon's coloured clothing.

A woman carries a purchase out of the Lululemon store in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"Bulls could easily counter that this is a company that is literally doing everything right to ensure the customer gets the best-quality goods to protect its premium positioning."

On Monday, the retailer pulled its popular black Luon yoga pants from store shelves because the material used to make them was too sheer, showing off too much of their customers' assets. The pants were also yanked from its showrooms and website.

The company, which has a devoted following, said it is working with its supplier and other manufacturers to replace the fabric and replenish the inventory as quickly as possible. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Low-cost laptops

Chromebook comes to Canada

Google is continuing its march into the hardware business with a brand of cheap laptops designed for using the web — and not much else. On Tuesday, the Internet giant announced its Chromebook concept was finally available in Canada, more than a year after being released in the U.S. and other countries. Chromebooks are being pushed as a low-cost device for users who spend most of their computer time on the web. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taxi hospitality

Grab a cab — and a cold one

When customers get into some New Orleans taxis, they'll now have the chance to buy a cold beverage during the drive to their destination. New Orleans Carriage Cab launched backseat vending machines Tuesday inside its 250-car fleet that also includes the Yellow-Checker Cab brands. The innovation comes after the city's entire taxi fleet was forced to modernize. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fraud allegations

Man charged with claiming to own Facebook shares

A Florida investment adviser has been charged in New York in an $8-million US securities fraud scheme that capitalized on enthusiasm for Facebook Inc. shares. Craig L. Berkman was arrested Tuesday at his home in Odessa, Fla. He was charged with claiming to own Facebook shares before the company went public last year when he did not directly own shares. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX 12,773.87 (-7.89)

OIL $92.16 US (-$1.58)

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THUMBS DOWN — STOP TEXTING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I think we're texting ourselves to death.

I was reading a story by a relationship therapist who claimed that Canadians text eight billion messages a month.

The point was something like: "How can anyone have a relationship when there's all that texting going on?"

That seemed like a lot to me, so I went to the Internet and did some research. No matter how you slice it, the guy's right. We do a terrific — or is that terrible — amount of texting.

According to one source, we send 227 million text messages a day or 10 million an hour. Another says Canadians send 2,500 messages a second for a total of 78 billion a year. While we're throwing around numbers, that comes to about 10 a day per subscriber.

In the U.S., according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project, the average user sends 40 messages a day, but young Americans 18-24 send or receive 109.5 messages a day.

It's easy to conclude we're all thumbs.

These numbers correspond to my anecdotal survey: nine times out of 10, wherever I go, everyone else is looking down. I'm the only one looking up.

I've tried to pretend to look down and be like everyone else, but my heart's not really in it. I have to admit I'm tired of texting, tired of tweeting, tired of email, tired of not talking to other people.

Other people are actually pretty interesting, but only if you can get them while they're not texting. They're also not very interesting if their fingers creep toward their smartphone (41 per cent of Canadians say they keep their cellphone in reach at all times), nor are they interesting when they try to talk to you and text at the same time (18 per cent; at least they're trying).

It starts to get interesting when they try to drive and text at the same time, but not in a good way. An editor at Car and Driver found that it took longer to stop when he was texting than when he was legally drunk — an extra 70 feet, which is enough to drive you straight into the nearest tree.

So here I am texting you, and here you are reading this text. Whoops.

I hope you find this text interesting. I hope it encourages you to put away your smartphone and look up.

Perhaps you're not driving into the back end of the car in front of you at this very moment. Bonus. That means it's not too late to put the phone away and start relating to other people, like your spouse, parents, friends, colleagues, perfect strangers. It doesn't matter. They've been so busy texting, none of them will recognize you anyway.

Start small. Smile. Remember? That's something you do with your face, not your thumbs.

ZOOM

Hole-y, what a church

Empty building a sign of the times

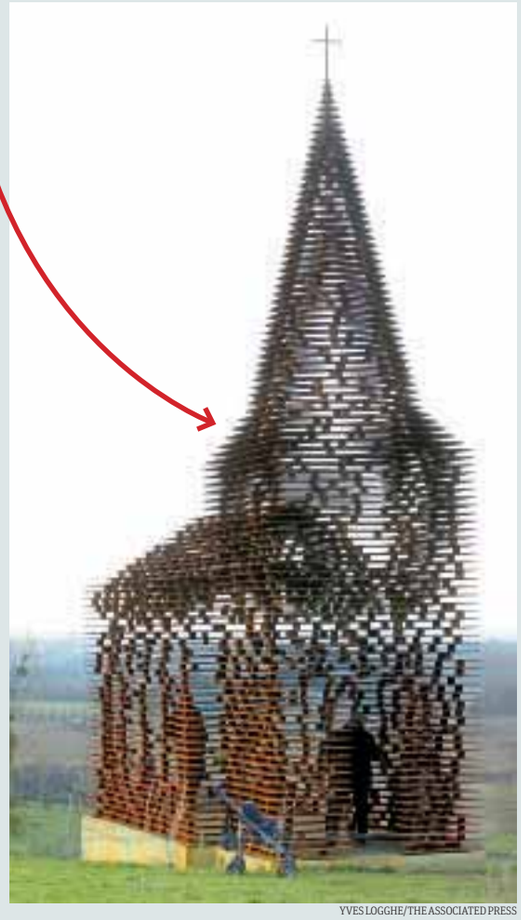
A see-through church stands on a hilltop in Borgloon, 80 kilometres east of Brussels, Belgium.

The artistic vision of the church is made of rusty steel beams separated by gaps, and its austere beauty won it an international architecture prize. Yet the eerie desolation of the see-through installation has also turned into a reflection on the state of Roman Catholicism on a religion-weary continent where real churches, like the dozen dotting the hills of this verdant area, increasingly lose their flock and function. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interest across Europe crumbles like a wafer

Across large swaths of Europe, empty pews and empty pulpits are the stark reality of centuries-old churches in a continent where, not so long ago, the village spire was the main point of reference for society.

Pope Francis faces a daunting array of challenges, and one of them is bringing souls back to the historic heartland of the Catholic Church. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For example

- For signs of this decline, look no further than Paris, at the famed Notre Dame Cathedral.
- On Pope Francis' installation day, thousands of tourists easily outnumbered less than 200 worshippers in the pews, even as the ceremony on St. Peter's Square was televised inside.
- Many churches have been turned into restaurants and shops, or even demolished, often given a new function in society never intended by those who originally built them.

Lean structure wins award

This disappearing act gave Pieterjan Gijs, of the Gijs Van Vaerenbergh architecture firm, ideas.

The Borgloon art installation's layered structure allows visitors to see right through it, and this evanescence gives it a double layer of beauty and philosophical depth. It won the 2012 prize for best religious building by the website Arch Daily. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Oh, sure, you'd love to come up with a blog idea so irresistible that smirking Photoshoppers can't help but flood your inbox with submissions. But how to get that precise mixture of clever yet simple?

Well, all you need is an hour in a quiet room with a list of magazine titles and a rhyming dictionary. It works like a charm.

Just ask whoever came up with Thumbs & Ammo, where guns are swapped with a cheery thumbs up and "real tough guys don't need guns, they just need a positive, can-do attitude."

thumbsandammo.blogspot.com

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Lululemon halted sales of black yoga pants for being too sheer. What clothing would you like to never be sold again?

@JennBarker82: Crocs - every colour every style!

@MEdingerReMax: acid bleached jeans, bell bottoms, corsets, and rugby pants

@Ketchum_All: Anything Ed Hardy..

@alangdon17: crocs, horrible horrible.

@bandrews14: suit jackets with shoulder pads. Who ever thought that shoulder pads was a good idea, or belonged outside of hockey or football

@DariaTuhtar: Cheap flip flops. I don't want to see your disgusting foot-shaped grime and sweat stains.

@CatBourque: clothing that droops below butt cheeks....

@duizerbarbie: was at Forever 21—acid wash jean shirt!–some things from the 80's should never come back

@Gnarlli: they WHAT?

@PengoMommy: Leggings with prints that are in stores right now. Unless you are under 12 or a stick you can't get away with it.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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metro

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Tina Fey's latest project has her starring alongside Paul Rudd in the movie Admission. HANDOUT

Fey's decade of comic clout

New movie. From SNL to a best-selling book to hit movies and a sitcom, the female comedian continues to break new ground

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tina Fey regularly appears on the Forbes' annual Celebrity 100 list of the most powerful celebrities. She's made the Entertainment Weekly roll call of Entertainers of the Year and Time called her one of the most influential people in the world. Did I mention she's also really funny?

For nine years on Saturday Night Live she worked behind the scenes — as the show's first female head writer — and on camera as the anchor of Weekend Update.

"She might be the best Weekend Update anchor who ever did it," said Dennis Miller. "She writes the funniest jokes"

Then came 30 Rock, the medium-rated but critically adored sitcom, a best selling book and a celebrated impersonation of Sarah Palin that even got the thumbs up from the ex-Governor.

This weekend she's on the big screen in Admission, a comedy co-starring Paul Rudd. She plays a Princeton admissions officer who thinks one of her new recruits is the son she gave up for adoption years ago.

Fey made her film debut a decade ago in the quirky comedy Martin & Orloff as part of an ensemble cast that included SNLers Amy Poehler and Rachel Dratch.

That movie didn't garner much attention, and her role of Southern Woman even less, but in 2004 she shortened the unwieldy title Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughters Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and Other Realities of Adolescence to Mean Girls. The story of high school in-groups was a hit and launched the careers of Rachel McAdams and Amanda Seyfried.

A comedienne

"She might be the best Weekend Update anchor who ever did it. She writes the funniest jokes."

Dennis Miller
Talking about Tina Fey.

She co-starred in Mean Girls as math teacher Ms. Norbury and made on-screen appearances as Front Desk Girl in Beer League but got her name over the title in Baby Mama.

She played Kate, a single 37-year-old businesswoman so desperate to have a baby she hires Angie, an inappropriate South Philly wild child (Amy Poehler) to be her surrogate.

Next was the stranded-in-big-bad-New-York-City movie Date Night opposite Steve Carell.

The movie wouldn't be as enjoyable as it is without the two leads. Fey and Carell breathe life into a hackneyed situation, bringing not only likeability, but also great chemistry and a way with a line that really works.

In the animated Megamind she voiced intrepid girl reporter Roxanne Ritchi, kidnapped by the master of all villainy Megamind (voice of Will Ferrell) and next year she stars with Ricky Gervais in The Muppets … again.

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News worth sharing.

FROM STEPHENIE MEYER THE AUTHOR OF THE TWILIGHT SAGA
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Guess who's back to rehab?

Lindsay Lohan is heading back to rehab. After reaching a deal with Judge James Dabney relating to her car crash last June, Lohan entered a guilty plea to giving false information to an officer, reckless driving and violating her probation, according to TMZ. Lohan was offered 90 days in jail but is allowed to serve out that sentence in a locked rehab facility. She is also on the hook for 30 days of community service, 18 months of psychotherapy, plus she has to pay fines and restitution to the victim in the car accident. "This is it," Dabney told Lohan at the hearing. "You violate your probation, and we are not going to have this conversation about putting you back on probation." He also offered her some personal advice: "Don't drive," he said.

Twitter

@ricky_martin
sometimes you just have to stop thinking so much and simply go with your heart. PERIOD. Have an awesome day every1!

@RealMichelleT
I'm off to slay some dragons

@MarkDuplass
I kinda miss walking around the video store in a state of utter confusion.

@justinbieber
good night Paris. je t'aime

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Who is the father of Michael Jackson's children?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

For years, I've gazed upon the children of Michael Jackson and wondered: "Are they really his kids?" What trips me up is that they kind of look like him, but only after he underwent his radical plastic surgery.

But then I remember that if he were still alive and "unadulterated," Jackson should look a lot more like Tito and a lot less like LaToya. I guess what I'm trying to clumsily say is that even with a white mother, Blanket, Paris and Prince should look more like a young Michael and a lot less like the crypt keeper he became. Also, holy cats: What a crazy family.

Anyway, it's looking more and more like MJ is not the father of his children (I knew it! Kind of!). According to TMZ, in their nasty wrongful death lawsuit against AEG Live (Katharine Jackson and Blanket, Paris and Prince are suing the entertainment giant for $40 billion for the negligent hiring and supervision of Dr. Conrad Murray during preparation for Jackson's This Is It tour), his family is asking to exclude any evidence of the true paternity of Jackson's children.

I'm unsure why the paternity would be entered into evidence — I'm far from a legal scholar — but the fact the Jackson family is trying to block this is telling.

Also, if the Jacksons do prevail against AEG, I hope they use some of those billions for therapy for those poor kids. Because even the best therapist in the land (Dr. Phil, duh) cannot go there.

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Is Albuquerque's tourism industry Breaking Bad?

Drug-induced dilemma. New Mexico city is profiting from visitors scoping out sites from hit TV series, but is it a rep they want to promote?

A fast-food burrito chain in Albuquerque has become an international tourist attraction as people come from all over the world to see the spot where a fictional drug trafficker runs his organization. A pastry shop sells doughnuts topped with blue candy designed to resemble crystal meth. A beauty store has a similar product — crystal blue bathing salts.

As Breaking Bad finishes filming its fifth and final season in Albuquerque, the popularity of the show is providing a boost to the economy and creating a dilemma for local tourism officials as they walk the fine line of profiting from a show that centres around drug trafficking, addiction and violence. Breaking Bad follows the fictional character Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher turned meth lord.

Albuquerque has seen an unexpected jump in tourists visiting popular sites from the show and local businesses cashing in on its popularity. Tourists are also flocking to sites that before the show were unknown and unimportant — the suburban home of White, played by Bryan Cranston, a car wash that is a front for a money-laundering operation on the series, a rundown motel used frequently for filming and the real-life burrito joint, which is a fast food chicken restaurant on the show. The Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau has even created a website of the show's most popular places around town to help tourists navigate, and ABQ Trolley Company sold out all its "BaD" tours last year at $60 a ticket.

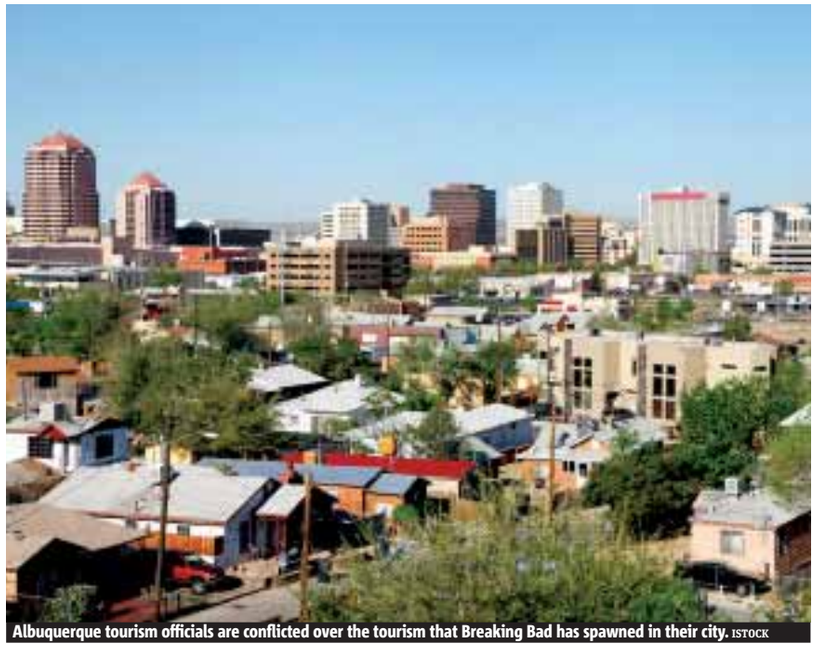
"They ask if they can take pictures. They ask if Gus is here," said Rachel Johnson, 19, a shift manager at the Twisters burrito restaurant in Albuquerque's South Valley, referring to the show's character Gus Fring, played by actor Giancarlo Esposito. The eatery has served as the location for the Los Pollos Hermanos restaurant where Fring runs his drug operation.

Tourism officials and business owners are quick to point out that they are walking a fine line in trying not to promote the dark themes from Breaking Bad. But their pride in the show taking place in Albuquerque — and the money that it brings in — is often enough to offset their concerns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Albuquerque Breaking Bad locations.** itsatrip.org/albuquerque/arts/breaking-bad-in-albuquerque.aspx offers map for self-guided tours and other information from the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau.



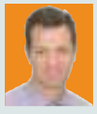
Albuquerque tourism officials are conflicted over the tourism that Breaking Bad has spawned in their city. ISTOCK

Debbie Ball, 60, owner of The Candy Lady store in Albuquerque, displays her new line of "meth candy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bryan Cranston as Walter White, left, and Aaron Paul as Jesse Pinkman in a scene from Breaking Bad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

Five European capitals worth a visit



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Amsterdam, Netherlands: My favourite city in Europe is in full party mode this year as they celebrate the inauguration of a new king on April 30. The UNESCO protected canal system that makes up the downtown core is 400 years old and the world-class Rijksmuseum has just completed a 10-year renovation, which includes a brand new wing devoted to Dutch masters Vermeer and Rembrandt. Additionally the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Artis Royal Zoo and the Felix Meritis cultural centre are all celebrating landmark birthdays of their own, which means a calendar heavy in special exhibits, concerts and events.

Reykjavik, Iceland: With the feel of a small town, this charming destination offers a surprising variety of fantastic food. The overwhelming benefit of a visit to this capital however, is the easy access it provides to the geothermal spas, volcanoes and unbelievable landscapes dotting the Icelandic countryside.

London, England: 2012's Olympic fever has broken and the furor surrounding the Queen's Jubilee is a happy memory. What's left is a city basking in the glow. Newly opened hotels, recently renovated museums, new attractions, like the wonderful Warner Bros. studio tour featuring The Making of Harry Potter, and the continuing development around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the city's East End are ready to be explored.

Rome, Italy: Thrust back into the spotlight during the election of Pope Francis, it is easy to see why this is one of the continent's grandest capitals. Full of ancient traditions and history, Rome (and Vatican City) offer culture vultures unique experiences around every corner. Green thumbs will also delight in the number of incredible public and private gardens available for exploring.

Berlin, Germany: Buzzing bars, hip designer stores and a mix of innovative architecture have made this city the arbiter of cool on the continent. A hotel boom has resulted in competitive guest room rates compared to other European capitals.

Spring into healthy eating habits with Greek Yogurt Chicken Salad

Skip the bread and opt for lettuce leaves instead. MAIJA MOMENTS OF YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

MAIJA MOMENTS
YummyMummyClub.ca

While I am all for deli-style chicken salad sandwiches on thick slices of white bread, sometimes the part of my brain that reminds me I need to be eating a little bit healthier pipes up and insists that some dishes can be made with health in mind.

It turns out, this recipe for Greek Yogurt Chicken Salad is as yummy as the original and can be made even healthier by using it in Chicken Salad Lettuce Wraps.

I also have to admit that I'll eat this stuff out of a bowl on its own, over rice or spread on toast. It's that yummy!

1. In a bowl, add chicken, celery, cucumber and cilantro.

2. Mix in Greek yogurt, Dijon mustard, and avocado until combined.

3. Place equal amounts of cabbage onto each lettuce leaf and top with chicken salad. Roll and enjoy!

YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP BUSY WOMEN SURVIVE MOTHERHOOD

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 4 slices cucumber, chopped
- 1-2 tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/2 avocado, peeled, pit removed, sliced and tossed in 1/2 tsp lemon or lime juice if desired (the bottled kind is fine)
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 6 lettuce leaves suitable for wraps

Drink of the Week

Blueberry-Mango Smoothie

This smoothie combines antioxidant-rich blueberries with mangos for a refreshing treat that is ready to enjoy in a few minutes.

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) plain soy milk
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) plain low-fat yogurt
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) frozen unsweetened blueberries
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) peeled cubed mango
- 1 packet Pure Via zero calorie sweetener
- 1 to 2 ice cubes

Place soy milk, yogurt, blueberries, mango and sweetener in blender container. Blend on medium speed until smooth. Add ice cubes and continue to blend until smooth. Pour in tall glass and serve.

NEWS CANADA

Orange Ginger Sauce: make broccoli lovers of your family

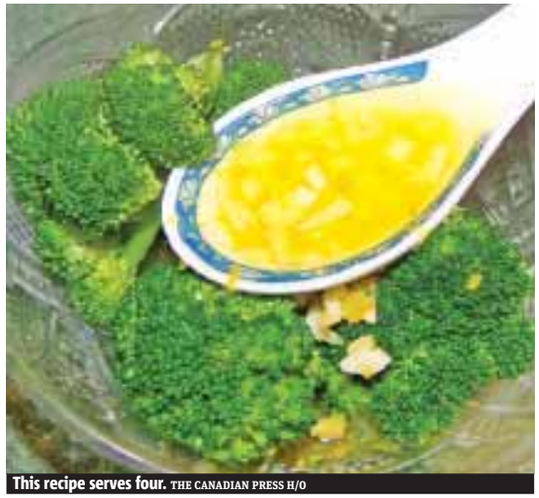
If you believe everything you read on the Internet, coconut oil is a panacea, recommended for everything from frying your chicken to shaving your legs.

Its proponents say it relieves stress, promotes increased immunity, metabolism and weight loss, fights viruses, Alzheimer's disease, kidney problems, heart disease, high blood pressure and much more.

But coconut oil is more than 90 per cent saturated fat, or about 11.8 grams per 15 millilitres, compared to about 63 per cent or 7.2 grams for the same amount of butter. And saturated fat is generally considered to be a "bad" fat that increases overall cholesterol levels.

The reason this doesn't apply to coconut oil, say supporters, is that about half the saturated fat in the oil is medium-chain fatty acids, which are easier to digest than the more prevalent long-chain fatty acids in most other oils.

While the scientific community doesn't disagree, it urges caution. Everybody from the World Health Organization to the American Heart Association and Dietitians of Canada advise limiting the consumption of significant amounts of coconut oil due to its high saturated fat content.



This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Jackie Sarginson of Quesnel, B.C., is a firm believer in the benefits of coconut oil. She is one of the owners of T.T. Ultimate Products, the Canadian distributor of a high-end line of coconut oil called Tropical Traditions.

All coconut oil comes in the form of a white solid and looks much like shortening. Stored at room temperature, it will last for years.

Broccoli or Green Beans With Orange Ginger Sauce

1. Blanch veg in boiling salted water 4 minutes. Drain.

Ingredients

- 1 bunch broccoli, cut into florets, or 750 ml (3 cups) green beans, sliced diagonally into pieces
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) virgin coconut oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) soy sauce
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) orange zest
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) orange juice
- 1 medium garlic clove, peeled and chopped
- 1 small piece fresh ginger root, peeled and chopped
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) Himalayan salt

2. Meanwhile, in a food processor combine remaining ingredients and process, scraping down sides as needed, until dressing is smooth.

3. If broccoli or beans still hot, toss with sauce and serve immediately. If vegetables have cooled too much and warm sauce is preferred, vegetables and sauce can be sautéed in a pan over medium heat 2 minutes before serving. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE COURTESY OF JACKIE SARGINSON OF T.T. ULTIMATE PRODUCTS.

Lunch. Spinach, Strawberry & Goat Cheese Sandwich

Many people are familiar with salads containing spinach, strawberries and goat cheese, so why not turn this combination into a delicious sandwich as well?

Sandwiches are a smart way to get all of your daily nutrients. Did you know that bread has naturally occurring vitamins and minerals similar to fruits and vegetables?

Baked with simple, wholesome ingredients like those found in your kitchen, this sandwich is healthy, unique and delicious.

1. Divide goat cheese and spinach between 2 slices of toast. Top with berries, drizzle with balsamic vinegar and season with salt and pepper.

2. Top with remaining slices of toast to form sandwiches. Slice in half and serve immediately.

NEWS CANADA/ NATURALLYDEMPSTERS.CA

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup (80 ml) crumbled goat cheese
- 2 cups (500 ml) baby spinach leaves
- 4 Slices Dempster's WholeGrains 12 Grain Bread, toasted
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced strawberries
- Balsamic vinegar to drizzle
- Salt and pepper

Assist without getting dismissed

To annoy is to destroy. Five easy ways to upsell at your retail job without being pushy

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

The pathway you take to the checkout counter can present upselling opportunities too. If you're helping someone with frames, for example, show them to the hardware aisle before they leave the store. ISTOCK

You've probably dealt with pushy retail salespeople before.

The ones who make you feel uncomfortable because they keep asking you to buy stuff even though you've said you're not interested more than once.

You know what I'm talking about, right? Perfect, you know how it feels and you know that it usually sends people searching for the nearest exit.

So, if you work in retail, don't be anything like that.

The challenge is that store management expects you to sell more products, maintain certain performance metrics and put more cash into the store's till. You can do this without begging customers to buy and spend more by offering them related products or services.

The guy taking your order at the drive-thru does this all the time by asking you if you'd like fries with your hamburger. Most of the time you say no. But sometimes, you say yes. That's how you get people to buy and spend more. It's called upselling.

Effective upselling requires patience, detailed observation, resilience and some skill.

Get a few more dollars out of your customers by following these five upselling tips:

Get them talking

People love talking about themselves. In my experience, the better the conversation, the longer a customer stays in the store, the more they tend to spend and the greater the chance they'll become a repeat customer.

Conversation helps build a relationship, showcases your product knowledge and makes the customer feel like you're their friend instead of a salesperson. How, though?

Ask open-ended questions

Get your customers talking by asking them open-ended questions. You don't want their response to be "yes" or "no" because you can't learn anything about them, how they plan to use the product or how much they're able to spend.

This process will reveal products or services that the customers didn't intend to buy.

If you're selling athletic footwear, for example, try asking questions like:

- What are you planning to use your shoes for?
- How much are you willing to spend?
- Tell me about your current pair of running shoes.

Suggest products your customers need

The answers to your open-ended questions will help you suggest products the customer might need to solve a problem they expressed during your conversation. If you're suggesting a more expensive product than the one they came to the store to purchase, always explain its features, benefits and why this product is better suited to fulfil their needs.

Not every upselling story has a happy ending. How you handle rejection can send a message to the customer about how genuine your recommendations really were.

Happy ending

Close the sale the way you started it

Remember how bubbly and friendly you were when the customer walked into the store? Act the same way throughout the entire transaction, tell them your name and don't forget to thank them for shopping at your store before they leave.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Did you have a brilliant idea that positively affected sales, your store's procedures or your store's layout? Describe your idea to your potential employer, including what the results were. ISTOCK

Learn how to brag and your resumé will thank you

Part-time shine. All those hours have added up to some exceptional experience

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI
TalentEgg.ca

If you ever feel like your part-time retail experience won't impress a potential employer, you're probably not emphasizing the skills you strengthened, your sales achievements or what you learned about running a business successfully on your resumé.

If you're hoping for a full-time career in retail on the sales floor or at a retailer's head office, your part-time experience is extremely valuable.

Here's how you can communicate what you did at these jobs on your resumé:

Quantify your sales performance

Retail is a results-oriented business. While the numbers don't tell an entire story, they don't lie either. Retailers are looking to see what and how you will contribute to their sales team and so numbers help prove your skills.

If you excelled in a previous role, be sure to be specific about what you achieved and when you achieved it. You should include important performance metrics like total sales, average sale and items per sale within a certain time period (either quarterly or yearly).

Include the benchmark for each metric

How can a hiring manager compare how you performed to how you were supposed to perform if you only tell them what you did? They won't know how impressive your metric figures are unless they're in the same industry. Add context to your achievements by including the store's benchmark or minimum requirements for each performance metric. This will prove that you really did excel in your role in relation to your colleagues.

This means you'll have to keep track of your performance (take photocopies, print out sales reports and relevant emails, and take pictures of significant sales receipts or merchandising lay-outs you worked on).

List any leadership roles

Were you responsible for training new hires? Did you lead a number of sales associates during peak times? Were you in charge of closing or opening the store? Were you a member of the store's health and safety committee?

- If you were, it probably means that management trusted your abilities and judgement to meet company standards, lead a team and resolve any problems that may arise. If you were called to perform tasks that made you a leader in your store, include the most notable ones on your resumé.

Display your commitment to learning

The top sellers tend to be the people with the most knowledge about products. If you attended any optional or mandatory product knowledge seminars during your employment, be sure to list how many and any key, transferable highlights from them. It signals to a potential employer that you take retail seriously, you're open to learning new things and that you're able to adapt to new situations.

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Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec blocks a shot on goal as teammates Bryan Little and Zach Bogosian and Boston Bruins forward Tyler Seguin look on at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg on Tuesday night. Pavelec stopped 27 of the 28 shots he faced in a 3-1 win. MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

Jets soar in the third for comeback win

NHL. Pavelec holds Bruins at bay before his teammates solve Rask at other end

Blake Wheeler and Evander Kane scored just 57 seconds apart in the third period as the Winnipeg Jets rallied to beat the Boston Bruins 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Wheeler added an empty-netter for the Jets (16-12-2), who leapfrogged past Carolina again to take the lead in the Southeast Division with 34 points. The Hurricanes lost 4-1 to Florida and are two back.

Brad Marchand scored the lone goal for the Bruins (19-6-3), who dropped their second straight and sit two back of Montreal for the lead in the Northeast.

Until the third, the Bruins had given the Jets a lesson in tight defensive play and it was only Jets netminder Ondrej Pavelec who kept them in the game.

Just eight seconds into the second, Marchand grabbed a loose puck right beside the Winnipeg net and scored, thanks to a mistake by Zach Bogosian.

On Tuesday

Jets	Bruins
3	1

The Jets defenceman bounced the puck off the net instead of clearing it behind, Marchand swooped in and was free and clear to slip it past Pavelec from the edge of the crease.

The Jets managed to shut down the Bruins in the first period even though Boston had two power-play opportunities.

Their penalty kill never wavered, but pucks weren't going in until the 11:44 mark of the third when Wheeler redirected Bogosian's shot from the blue-line past Tuukka Rask on a power play.

Then Kane slammed home Grant Clitsome's rebound to put the Jets ahead at 12:41 before the Bruins had time to recover.

Pavelec finished with 27 saves, while Rask stopped 22 at the other end.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Malkin hopes to suit up this week

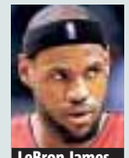
Defenceman Matt Niskanen scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and Sidney Crosby had two assists as the Pittsburgh Penguins extended their winning streak to 10 games with a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday.

The winning streak is the longest of the season for the Eastern Conference-leading Penguins and the second-longest in the NHL this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

James' Ohio visit overshadowed by win streak



LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James and the Miami Heat are about to play another game in Cleveland.

Yawn.

That's what a 23-game winning streak will do.

It mutes the LeBron-Goes-Home-Again hype.

But after gutting out a win in Boston on Monday night and what lies ahead, it may no longer be farfetched to think that the record of 33 straight victories set by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers is within Miami's grasp.

"It means a lot," James said after the Boston game. "I know the history of the game. To be sitting in second place right now ... for us to be there and doing it in the way we want to do it, it means a lot."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swede and sour results for Homan

Rachel Homan releases a rock as Alison Kreviazuk, left, and Lisa Weagle sweep. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Rachel Homan split her games for the second straight day at the world women's curling championship, dropping an 8-4 decision to Sweden on Tuesday night after edging Italy 7-6 earlier in the day.

Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson got around a guard with her final throw and knocked Homan's stone from the four-foot ring for the win.

"It was very frustrating to lose that one because we definitely outplayed them," Homan said. "But that happens sometimes, that's curling. You just move on and take the good from that game and keep doing it."

Quoted

"If we keep playing like that, we'll be fine the rest of the way." Canadian skip Rachel Homan feels her team is settling in well.

Homan has a 4-3 record after 11 draws, good for a share of fourth place in the round-robin standings. Sigfridsson and Scotland's Eve Muirhead share first place at 6-1 and Russia's Anna Sidorova is third at 5-2.

The United States, Switzerland and Japan are tied with Canada at 4-3. The top four rinks in the 12-team field will make the playoffs.

Despite the loss, Homan and her coach were satisfied with the effort against the 2012 silver medallists. The 23-year-old Ottawa skip felt the Canadians took a step forward on Tuesday and felt more settled on the ice.

In the afternoon session, Homan hit a draw with her final throw for a win over Italy.

"It was a great last judge by my front end and a great team end," she said. "We made eight shots that end, so it was good."

Canada will play Germany and Switzerland on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chevy HHR a decent ride

Second Gear.
2006 to 2011
Chevrolet HHR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The Chevrolet HHR was a crossover wagon that rode the same platform as the Chevrolet Cobalt, was powered exclusively by four-cylinder engines and offered up retro styling, a flexible cabin and relatively low operating costs.

Look for feature content including Bluetooth, a sunroof, keyless entry, power accessories, leather-wrapped accents and more. Shoppers should note that LS models were the more "basic" HHR units, while LT models were more loaded.

Common Issues

Key concerns on a used HHR tend to centre around electric steering system failure, which could cause a loss of power assist. This may startle drivers and could result in an accident. Thankfully a recall addressed this situation, and your local GM dealership has more details.

Check the automatic gear shifter for proper operation, ensuring it shifts with no hesitation or difficulty. A faulty shifter button, cable and/or brake interlock switch could be to blame if that's not the case. You'll also want to note the ease of starting the engine and removing the key afterward, as some owners have reported issues with the ignition key.

Hard or aggressive shifting from a model with the automatic gearbox could be a sign of a problem with a sensor or computer module controlling the gearbox.

Engine

Look for a 2.2 litre engine with 143 horsepower or a 2.4 litre with 172. Engine output was increased slightly in 2007, and all models got a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual transmission that drove the front wheels.

What owners like

Ride quality, handling, fuel mileage and interior flexibility were all highly rated by HHR owners taking to the web. Smooth and refined powerplant performance was also noted.

What owners dislike

Fussy seat controls, manual transmission shifter feel and rearward visibility, alongside blind spots, were among the HHR's more common complaints.

Verdict

Lower-than-average resale value combine with low running costs and high flexibility make a well-maintained, mechanically fit HHR a decent used buy. Just have that power steering system checked out.

Stop idling, reduce fuel consumption

Idle stop-start systems can reduce fuel consumption. NEWS CANADA

Did you know that if every driver of a light-duty vehicle in Canada decreased their vehicle idling by three minutes a day, we would collectively save more than 500 million litres of fuel and more than $500 million annually in fuel costs?

Not only that, we would prevent more than one billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere each year.

Automobile manufacturers have come up with a way to help drivers reduce fuel use and prevent unnecessary engine idling.

Idle start-stop systems are a proven technology that has been successfully deployed over the past 10 years in hybrid vehicles. Manufacturers have also begun to make these technologies available in conventional vehicles sold in Canada.

Idle start-stop systems reduce fuel consumption and exhaust emissions by turning off the engine when the vehicle is stopped and during deceleration at low vehicle speeds. The system automatically restarts the engine when the driver hits the accelerator. In hybrids, when the car comes to a stop, the engine computer cuts the spark and the fuel. When the foot is lifted off the brake, the engine fires back up.

Idle stop systems offer significant benefits in urban driving where stop-and-go traffic is frequent, and can reduce urban fuel consumption by four to 10 per cent depending on the technology used and specific driving conditions.

The technology is designed to provide seamless operation so that drivers are not inconvenienced while driving.

More information on fuel consumption, purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles, and fuel-saving driving behaviours is available online at vehicles.gc.ca.

NEWS CANADA

Heavy foot? Honda's Econ function fixes that

Driving Force. Fuel savings may be as high as six per cent

JIL MCINTOSH
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No matter what type of vehicle you're driving, your fuel economy will improve if you keep a light foot on the throttle. Many automakers are now making it easier by including an "Economy" button that will help do it for you.

"The Econ button has the ability to make you drive gently," says Hayato Mori, manager of product planning for Honda Canada. "It will feel like your engine just went down one size. The car functions fine, but if you're used to certain acceleration, you sacrifice a bit of performance for fuel (savings)."

The Econ button affects the throttle response and air conditioning, along with the transmission on automatic-equipped vehicles.

Most cars no longer have a cable or mechanical linkage connecting the throttle pedal to the engine. Instead, your foot pressure on the pedal sends an electronic signal to a computer that determines how much fuel to send to the engine.

Since hard "jackrabbit starts" are wasteful, the Econ system regulates a gentler throttle response, although you'll still have power to get up to speed or to pass other traffic.

Staying in a lower gear as your speed increases makes your engine work harder. An automatic transmission will always shift gears when the engine speed is high enough that the next gear is appropriate. But in Econ mode, the transmission will shift into the higher gears as soon as possible to reduce the load on the engine, which also saves fuel.

The Econ system won't have any control over a manual transmission, where it's up to the driver to shift gears, but there may be an upshift light in the dash. This advises the driver, based on the engine speed, when he should shift to a higher gear for better fuel economy.

Finally, when the Econ button is activated and the air conditioning is on, the system will limit the length of time the a/c condenser runs. The condenser uses engine power, so while the cabin may be slightly warmer than with full a/c, you'll notice a difference in fuel consumption.

Several Honda vehicles have lights in the instrument cluster, which coach you to drive more efficiently by changing from green to blue if your foot's too heavy. "If you follow the coaching lights and use the Econ button, you can get up to four and possibly six per cent savings in fuel," Mori says.

More tips

- Many vehicles have a "Sport" button, which works opposite to an Econ button: it quickens throttle response, holds lower gears longer, and on some, tightens the steering feel for sportier performance.
- Your fuel economy will always improve if you accelerate gently, and use steady throttle pressure to maintain your speed.

Fuel economy goes up by using the Econ function, but a little bit of performance is sacrificed. COURTESY HONDA CANADA

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No need for flannel with Forester

AUTO PILOT
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Why is our correspondent driving the 2014 Subaru Forester with two wheels on a roller? Apparently, "it's fun." It was also Subaru's way of showing how cleverly the Forester's AWD system could carry on when both wheels on one side of the vehicle were completely traction deprived. CONTRIBUTED

Some technological shifts take place over decades. Others take longer. We're still waiting, for example, for banking institutions to take less than five business days to clear a local cheque, even though they collectively possess more data transfer technology than the team of international engineers working on the World Space Station.

But let's talk about a technological shift that's more fun — how vehicle off-road technology is evolving from hardware to software.

Before computers crept into vehicles, if you wanted to go up a rugged hill with a 35-degree slope, you needed a squarish Jeep or Land Rover complete with locking differentials and hubs, a set of lower gears, a transfer case to select 4x4 and those lower gears, stiffer and bigger springs, skids plates, and tires so knobby that ground squirrels could live in their grooves for weeks. All manly and beefy stuff.

You might step into an off-road vehicle like a highly evolved man or woman, but once fully 4x4 engaged, you would start grunting instead of using your words, shirt material would magically turn to flannel and your shut-down chainsaw would intermittently murmur in anticipation.

But no such transformation took place last week when we had an opportunity to try out the all-new 2014 Subaru Forester and its new-fangled off-road system. To keep Forester as one of the more capable off-roaders in its segment, Subaru updated its AWD system, but not so much with anything meaty and metally — more by making it smarter, through software.

Unlike the previous system, this AWD system talks to the steering wheel, the yaw rate sensor (how the vehicle rotates on its centre axis), and a device that measures transverse acceleration (I only wish I knew how to explain that).

Also new is X-Mode. Hit the switch on the console and Forester is transformed into a slow-speed off-road rock star (only works under 40 km/hr).

Some of the things it does: makes the throttle easier to feed in small amounts of power when going uphill; makes the throttle easier to more quickly feed in power when traversing rough roads and keeps a lower gear longer with no torque convertor lock-up.

Because the VDC system is already capable of applying brakes and throttle to keep a vehicle from spinning out of control, Subaru uses the functions to give us X-Mode's "Hill Descent" feature. Just point the vehicle down a steep hill and keep your feet off the brakes and throttle — and steer. The system automatically brakes and maintains the appropriate speed.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
As of today, all the pieces of your jigsaw that failed to fit will at last fall into place. You will know who you are, what you want and that surely you will get it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You seem to feel guilty about something and with the Sun moving into the most sensitive area of your chart today, it could all get a bit much for you. Get a grip!

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't leave people guessing today. Tell them exactly what you mean. Over the next few weeks, you will find it easy to win friends and influence people. So, speak up and when necessary, speak loudly.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can and you must pursue your own ambitions, whatever they might be. According to the planets, this is a make or break time as far as your reputation is concerned. Be positive and be ready to move up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may find yourself called upon to help someone in need today and, of course, you will assist in any way you can. However, do not — repeat, not — lend them money because chances are you won't see it again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you have fallen out with a friend or family member now is the time to kiss and make up. But make sure any apology you make sounds sincere or you could find yourself in deeper water than before.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your needs must come first. As the Sun moves into your opposite sign today so partners and colleagues will expect you to do everything for them. Put your foot down right from the start, on their toes if necessary!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't leave anything to chance: Stay on top of work and money matters and make sure you are the only one who can make things happen. If you let others make decisions for you, they may take your power.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is excitement in the air. You know that something wonderful is going to happen. And so it is, but don't be too disappointed if it is not quite as wonderful as you expected. It will get better as time goes on.

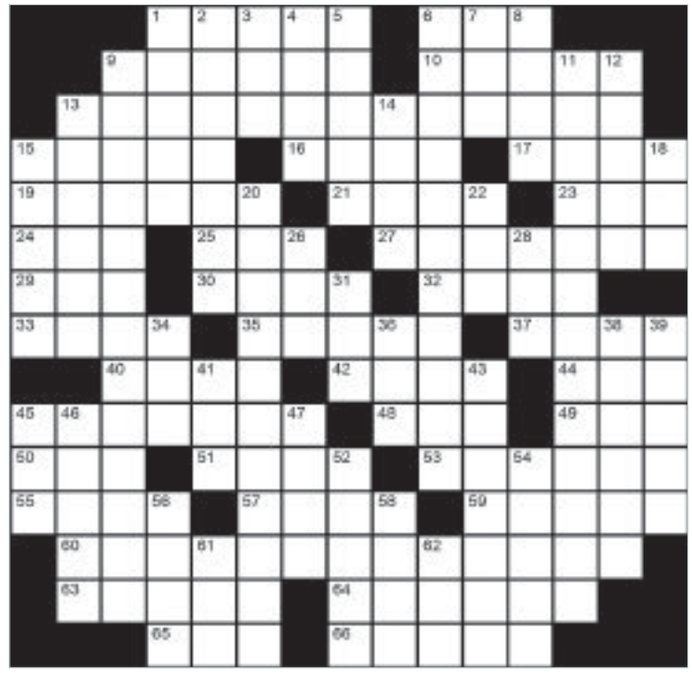
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There are days when all you want to do is watch the world go by from the safety of your armchair, and this is one of them. Not even a Capricorn can be a mover and shaker all the time.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your mind may be full of good ideas but how many of them will see the light of day? Too often in the past you have failed to follow up on your insights, but now you must. It's your turn to shine.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun may be leaving your sign but that does not mean the good times are ending. On the contrary, you will soon enjoy rewards of the efforts you made in recent weeks. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

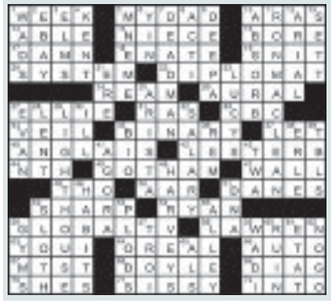
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Salma Hayek movie
6. Dance style
9. Shut
10. Wiseguy, Smart __ [var. sp.]
13. "Wondering Where the Lions Are" singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
15. Erased
16. Knight's heraldic wreath
17. Enjoy a novel
19. Namesakes of Mario's brother in Nintendo games
21. Lunchtime
23. "Law & Order: _ _ _"
24. Assn.
25. Lid's protectee
27. Like the stone of a foot file
29. Fitness system, __ Bo
30. Rosebud, for one
32. Prong
33. Word segment, for short
35. Grassland of South Africa
37. Empire of Peru
40. Ms. O'Grady of "Eight Is Enough"
42. Toward: French
44. Carson Daly's li'l old MTV show
45. Coming into sight: 2 wds.
48. Big Apple toy store, _ _ _ Schwarz
49. Vintage auto
50. Utah's capital [acronym]
51. Cup _' __ (Hot drink, informally)
53. Boorish beings in Jonathan Swift's book Gulliver's Travels
55. North Pole laugh: 2 wds.
57. Village People hit
59. Gets boring
60. One of Queen Elizabeth's royal residences: 2 wds.
63. Fresco-__ (Painting technique)
64. Permeates
65. "Ich bin __ Berliner."
66. Feats

Down
1. Thrown site of the Canadian Pacific Railway's 'Last Spike'
2. Western Canada mountains
3. 'Expert' suffix
4. Design style, Art __
5. Embellish
6. Fast food item for 'to go' customers: 2 wds.
7. Religious robe
8. Fear: French
9. 1885: British Columbia
11. Croissants: 2 wds.
12. Card deck's Jack
13. __-__ and DVD
14. Hoof sound
15. Ink stains
18. Flop
20. Ian's folk duo partner: 2 wds.
22. Acr. for first-last names only people
26. Wide shoe width
28. 'Tortell' ender (Stuffed pasta)
31. Gladiator's 555
34. "Well, __-di-dah!"
36. Word's meaning, for short
38. Elvis flick, "King __" (1958)
39. At _ __ for words
41. Prefix with 'classical'
43. Dishwater bubbles, but just one here: 2 wds.
45. Informally seat theatre-goers
46. Works the land
47. Record deal dreamer's creation, commonly
52. Bitter
54. Detests
56. Irish film of 2006 about two songwriters
58. Pinnacle
61. 601 in ancient Rome
62. Homer's dad on "The Simpsons"

Yesterday's Crossword



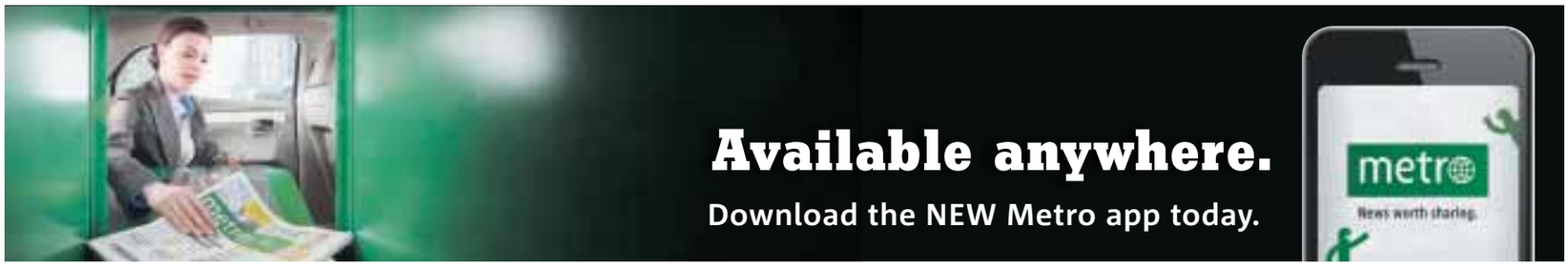
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

1		8	3		6	2		7
		6	5		1	8		
	5						4	
			9		2			
2								8
			4		8			
	6						8	
		4	8		3	9		
7		1	2		5	4		3

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	3	5	4	7	1	8	9
7	4	1	9	3	8	5	6	2
8	9	5	6	1	2	4	3	7
2	5	8	4	6	1	9	7	3
1	3	6	7	9	5	8	2	4
4	7	9	2	8	3	6	1	5
5	6	7	8	2	4	3	9	1
9	1	2	3	5	6	7	4	8
3	8	4	1	7	9	2	5	6



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2013 Hyundai **Accent GLS**	N33277A	$98 bi-wkly	$15,999
2008 Hyundai **Santa Fe GLS**	N33586A	$136 bi-wkly	$17,888
2012 Hyundai **Sonata GLS**	B5614	$98 bi-wkly	$17,999
2011 Hyundai **Sonata GL**	N32666B	$118 bi-wkly	$17,999
2013 Hyundai **Elantra GL**	B5623	$104 bi-wkly	$18,999
2013 Hyundai **Tucson GL**	N33498A	$128 bi-wkly	$23,999
2010 Hyundai **Tucson GLS**	N33512A	$164 bi-wkly	$24,888
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2010 Hyundai **Santa Fe SPORT**	N33377A	$158 bi-wkly	$24,999
2009 Hyundai **Elantra SPORT**	N32724A	$98 bi-wkly	$13,888
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